

From: Jaron Abbott
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:44am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust trial. I feel that the current proposed settlement does not provide adequate reparations to the hundreds of companies injured by Microsoft's anti-competitive practices, nor does it limit its ability to commit similar actions in the future. Microsoft is still allowed to benefit from all their illegal acts, so long as they don't commit those acts again. This is not justice for their victims or the American people as a whole.

Microsoft should become a government-regulated monopoly, at least until its market share drops below an acceptable level (e.g. the level of one of its competitors). This is the only way they will curtail their practices. Even when found guilty, they did not change their behavior. Microsoft's practices inhibit competition, reduce innovation, and thereby decrease employment and productivity in our nation.

The United States is a successful country because a free market has encouraged firms to compete by producing high-quality, low-cost goods. This system needs to be protected from monopolists who gain sufficient power to destroy the competitive nature of the market in which they participate. One possible solution would be forcing them to release source code, protocols, or something similar, so that other companies could compete. The current settlement shows that the government no longer has the power to enforce the laws that control our capitalistic country.

Sincerely,

Jaron Abbott